March 3, 1950.

Miss Ellen Kann, Dect. Bacteriology, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Miss Kann:

I was very sorry to hear of Guthrie's resignation, and the predicament into which you and the other graduate students have fallen.

Unfortunately, appointments for assistantships here have all just been completed, and it is unlikely that you would be able to complete your application in time even to qualify for any vacancies that may still conceivably arise, even by resignation or refusal. It is not so much a matter of financial support as it is of space in the laboratory, which is already badly overcrowded. However, I am sending you a set of application forms if you would care to make a belated effort. We can keep these on file if you wish to activate them again next year.

As for other suggestions, I cannot think of anything that you will not already know. Al Hershey is going to Cold Spring Harbor, and Luria to Illinois, starting in September, and they may wish to reconstitute their staffs. Ben Ruben was advertising for an assistant in Microbial Genetics Bulletin — Guthrie probably has a copy.

I am sorry that I cannot be more gelpful at this time, to help you out of a situation which is no fault of your own, but I can't think of anything else that would be of any use.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg, Assistant Professor of Genetics